

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 7-9, 11-14, 16-20 and 22-31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 16 and 22 are amended; claims 2, 10, 15, and 21 are canceled; and claim 31 is added. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0016] and [0052]-[0054]. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Daniels at the interview held June 17 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

**I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11-14, 16-20, 22-23, and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yu et al. ("Yu '396", U.S. Patent No. 5,606,396) in view of Yu et al. ("Yu '532", U.S. Patent No. 5,240,532) and Taniishi et al. ("Taniishi", U.S. Patent No. 4,291,505). Claims 3 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yu '396 in view of Yu '532, Taniishi and Yu et al. ("Yu '722", U.S. Patent No. 6,068,722). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yu '396 in view of Yu '532, Taniishi and Wellenhofer (DE 28 33 189). Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yu '396 in view of Yu '532, Taniishi, Yu '722 and Wellenhofer. Because the rejections are related, they are addressed together. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Each of independent claims 1 and 16 specify, *inter alia*, that the stress/strain relief process for a flexible, multilayered web stock includes passing the multilayered web stock at a continuous speed over and in contact with a processing tube, wherein at least one heat

source heats at least one layer to be treated above a glass transition temperature. Claim 1 specifies, *inter alia*, that the heated portion of the web stock is cooled at the curvature by directing a cooling stream at the heated portion of the web stock.

As discussed at the interview, Yu '396 teaches that an imaging member emerges from a conventional charge transport layer oven dryer and is subsequently transported around a chill roll prior to being passed over a large transport roll prior to being sent to a conventional wind-up roll (Yu '396, col. 17, lines 35-48). However, Yu '396 teaches that the charge transport layer is heated well prior to being passed over the chill roll. In addition, Yu '396 teaches that the only function of the chill roll is to bring the temperature of the charge transport layer down to ambient room temperature (Yu '396, col. 17, lines 41-44). As agreed to at the interview, regarding claims 1 and 16, nowhere does Yu '396 teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process wherein at least one heat source heats the web stock as it passes over a processing tube at a continuous speed. As also agreed to at the interview, regarding claim 1, Yu '396 fails to teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process where the web stock is cooled just prior to leaving the processing tube by directing a cooling stream at a heated portion of the web stock. Yu '396 thus fails to teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process, as claimed. Accordingly, Yu '396 does not render obvious independent claims 1 and 16.

As also discussed at the interview, Yu '532 does not overcome the deficiencies of Yu '396. Yu '532 teaches that the seam and adjacent regions of an electrophotographic belt are heated and then cooled while being maintained in an arcuate shape (Yu '532, col. 11, lines 19-21; col. 12, lines 29-38). However, as agreed to at the interview, regarding to claims 1 and 16, nowhere does Yu '532 teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process where at least one heat source heats the web stock as it passes over a processing tube at a continuous speed. As further agreed to at the interview, regarding claim 1, Yu '532 fails to teach or suggest that the web stock is cooled just prior to leaving the processing tube by directing a cooling stream at a

heated portion of the web stock. Yu '532 thus fails to teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process, as claimed. Accordingly, Yu '532 does not render obvious independent claims 1 and 16.

As further discussed at the interview, Taniishi does not overcome the deficiencies of Yu '396 and Yu '532. Taniishi teaches a process to fabricate a concave roller to be used in an apparatus that fixes a toner image onto a paper substrate in an electrophotographic imaging apparatus; it does not relate to the heat treatment of an imaging member web stock (Taniishi, column 1, lines 7-16). Taniishi also teaches stretching a paper substrate as it passes through a dual roller apparatus so that wrinkles are not formed on the paper substrate, which would visibly degenerate the quality of the toner image (Taniishi, column 1, lines 20-30). As discussed at the interview, the stress/strain relief process of the present claims prevents the formation of micro-ripples, which are formed internally to the imaging member web stock. *See* specification at paragraphs [0053]-[0054]. These micro-ripples are minute in physical dimension, are not visible to the naked eye and result in streak defects in the copy printouts. *See* specification at paragraph [0054]. However, as agreed to at the interview, Taniishi does not teach or suggest that its dual roller apparatus prevents the formation of micro-wrinkles, which are not visible to the naked eye, and that are internal to the paper substrate.

As additionally agreed to at the interview, regarding claims 1 and 16, nowhere does Taniishi teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process wherein at least one heat source heats the web stock as it passes over a processing tube at a continuous speed. As further agreed to at the interview, regarding claim 1, Taniishi fails to teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process where the web stock is cooled just prior to leaving the processing tube by directing a cooling stream at a heated portion of the web stock. Taniishi thus fails to teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process, as claimed. Accordingly, Taniishi does not render obvious independent claims 1 and 16.

Yu '722, cited only against dependent claims 3 and 24-28, does not teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process, as claimed. Yu '722 thus does not overcome the deficiencies of Taniishi, Yu '396 and Yu '532, as discussed above.

Wellenhofer, cited only against dependent claims 15 and 26-28, does not teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process, as claimed. Wellenhofer thus does not overcome the deficiencies of Taniishi, Yu '396, Yu '532, and Yu '722, as discussed above.

Claims 2, 7-9, 11-14, 17-20, 22-23, and 29-30 variously depend from independent claims 1 and 16. Because Yu '396, Yu '532, Taniishi, Yu '722 and Wellenhofer fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, the features recited in independent claims 1 and 16, dependent claims 2, 7-9, 11-14, 17-20, 22, 23, 29 and 30 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 16 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, any combination of the cited references fails to teach or suggest a stress/strain relief process for a flexible, multi-layered web stock, as claimed. The references thus would not have rendered obvious the claimed invention.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

## **II. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: June 20, 2008

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